

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 16 and 23 have been cancelled, while claim 3 has been made a proper independent claim and includes the limitations of cancelled claim 1; claims 6 and 14 have each been made proper independent claims, each including the limitations of claim 5; and claim 18 has been made a proper independent claim and includes the limitations of claims 5 and 16. In addition, claims 2, 4, 21 and 22 have each been made dependent on claim 3; while claim 8 has been made dependent on claim 2.

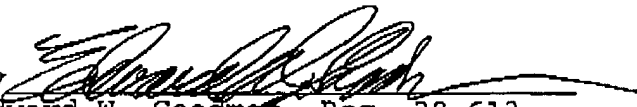
The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,486,843 to Otting et al. Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner has found claims 3, 6-9, 11-15 and 17-20 allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above changes, Applicant believes that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection has been overcome.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9, 11-15 and 17-22, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by


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